News release

Keeping the UK running

22 February 2005

UK agencies are working closely to ensure the country keeps running, despite the continuing threat of heavy snowfall. Met Office forecasters are in constant contact with colleagues in the travel and service industries to keep them updated with the weather picture.

Parts of eastern and northern England are the worst affected so far, with several inches of snow lying. Strengthening easterly winds and sub-zero temperatures from the continent have now given the south-east of England and London their first real snow of the winter.

The cold, icy blast looks set to last for the rest of the week, and forecasters at the Met Office are now paying particular attention to the possibility of more widespread and heavier snow during Thursday. Central and southern England is particularly at risk, and Chief Meteorologist Ewen McCallum said: "After such a mild winter this spell of weather will come as a shock, despite the early warnings. So far our co-operation with utilities, road and rail authorities and civil contingencies has minimised the impact of the weather. However, with more snow forecast and the risk of heavier falls on Thursday the big test may be yet to come."

Latest forecast for the UK

UK warnings of severe weather

What to do in severe weather

For updated information on the road and rail network visit the Highways Agency and National Rail Enquiries

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